AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the following heading as a new paragraph before the paragraph starting at page 1, line 3:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please insert the following heading as a new paragraph before the paragraph starting at page 2, line 16:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In a further embodiment of the invention there is provided ~~a provided~~ a pressure relief valve for a packaging container in the form of a product identification band or label as hereinbefore described in combination with closure means for a container such as a sealant film, a heat salable laminate, polypropylene lid or the like. The closure means is formed with an aperture therein and when the pressure relief valve and closure means combination are assembled, the valve is caused to overlie the aperture.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 13 with the following rewritten paragraph:

According to the invention there is also provided a method of facilitating the safe removal of steam wherein during the packaging of a food product or so-called"ready meal" contained in

a dish-format container~~. Said~~, the method ~~comprising~~ comprises the step of placing a sealant film over the container, the step of making a small aperture in the sealant film and the further step of applying a product identification wrapping or label having a flap formed therein such that the flap is located over the aperture such that pressure created within the container when the ready meal is heated vents through the flap which acts as a valve.

Please insert the following heading as a new paragraph before the paragraph starting at page 9, line 27:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please insert the following heading as a new paragraph before the paragraph starting at page 10, line 13:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Please replace the paragraphs beginning at page 10, line 24 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The product identification band or label 10 is formed with discontinuities 14 in the label layer 12 which may be in the form of cuts, slots, perforations or the like which penetrate the label layer 12. These discontinuities may take the form of two cuts which converge at a single point, or else be in the form of a single V-shaped cut. A fold, scored or creased line 16 is

provided between the non convergent region 18 of the cut or cuts such that a triangular region or flap 20 is formed in the label layer 12 therebetween. In addition, the region 20 may also be embossed ~~22~~ to a degree such that it is slightly raised from the surface of the main body of the label 12, and this also serves to assist the lifting action of the flap.

Please replace the paragraphs beginning at page 11, line 11 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The product identification band, wrapping member or label 12 is then applied to and adheres to the packaged product (not shown) such that the triangular area ~~18~~ 20 is located over the aperture. Once the label 12 has been applied, the contents of the container remain hermetically sealed despite the regions of discontinuity ~~18~~ 14 formed therein as the adhesive provided on the label layer including the flap 20 portion serves to retain this portion in contact with the sealant means.

When the packaged food product is heated in a microwave oven, steam is generated within the package which acts to heat and/or cook the food contained therein. When the amount of steam created within the package reaches a level at which it begins to impinge on the integrity of the sealant film, the pressure will act on the point of least resistance and this will be the aperture made in the sealant film. The steam will begin to move through this aperture as the pressure inside increases. As the

aperture is covered by the label 10 and in particular the triangular or flap portion 20 the steam moving through the aperture will act on the underside of the product identification band, wrapping member or label in this particular region 20 ~~12~~, and the pressure of the escaping steam will cause the adhesive to be this region of the label to be overcome thus permitting the flap portion 20 to lift and act as a valve allowing the steam to vent as shown in Figure 6.